

**Seattle Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, August 1st, 2013, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
City Hall - Boards and Commissions Room

Commissioners Present: Isabel Bussarakum, Nika Dahlbacka, Michael Mitchell, Catherine Moore, Andrea Negrete, Martin Penner, Christina Ygon

Commissioners Absent: Katherine Beckett, Alejandra Gonza, David Lujano, Marsha Mavunkel, Greg Ramirez, Jennifer Yogi

SOCR Staff Present: Ronald Ramp, Mike Chin

Guest Speakers: Andrea Brenneke, Director Restorative Justice

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes Deferred to next meeting due to lack of quorum

SOCR report Ronald Ramp

- Summarized RSJI activates; Race: Power of an Illusion in the community and city depts.
- Gender pay equity task for assembled will meet five times starting in August
- Job assistance legislation stake holders meeting on July 31st.
- Pacific Science Center RACE: Are We So Different kick off October 1st
- Job assistance legislation public meeting August 7th 3-6p.m. City Hall
- Equal Pay Forum sponsored by SWC & SOCR August 19th 6-8p.m. Bertha Landes Room

Guest Andrea Brenneke Director Restorative Justice

Andrea Brenneke is new to the City as Director of Restorative Justice. She came to share how she came to the work, discuss restorative justice, and to invite collaboration. Andrea worked in Employment and Civil Rights Law. Andrea sought alternative methods to the law to obtain justice. The model is based on restorative circles in Brazil. Andrea worked with the city on issues related to SPD. She was considering the OPA Director position. During this process Andrea and city found a new position for restorative justice would be beneficial to the city. The restorative circle model can be used in wide a range of setting and conflicts.

She worked with the John T. Williams issues in a room with family members and SPD. The model provided greater understanding, created an action plan, and accountability systems. Cathy asked about the possibility of this model in relation to conflicts around homelessness in the city. Andrea felt restorative justice would work well on these issues, and said the issues are close to her heart and mind. A joint event with the commission, council and stakeholders was discussed. The commission felt this was a good idea.

The Executive Committee moved co-sponsor an event council.

Bio's

The bio's on the SHRC website are outdated. If you have an updated bio send it to Ron and he will update the website. Ronald.ramp@seattle.gov

Committee Reports:

Executive:

- The retreat will be in September 2nd.
- Co-sponsor Race: Power of Illusion training with SPD in September or October 5th It would open to the community.
- Signed 2nd ACLU letter on marijuana regulations

SPD in-car video cameras:

Continuing problems with SPD were discussed; a recent incident involving a reporter for the Stranger at a transit center. The reporter was taking video of an incident and was intimidated and told to leave without provocation. It was pointed out some police present were SPD and some with the King County Sheriff's Transit Police. King County Sheriff is not under the same monitoring as SPD. The commission discussed the possibility of a meeting or letter to the King County Sheriff sharing what was learned with SPD.

Encampments – Isabel

City council voted to disband Nickelsville, and allocate \$500,000 in outreach assistance to residents. Encampments can apply for a six month temporary use permit. Currently this permit costs around \$2,000.00 and subject to community appeal/opposition. In light of the costs and likelihood of facing an appeal these permits are rarely utilized. A policy change was considered by city council. Once the city had approved the permit the process would be done. The permit would not be subject to community appeal. The permit would be for one year. This was defeated by city council 5 to 4. It was felt some of the opposition was based on a report that suggested re-location is a better option than encampments. The commission discussed that encampments may not be ideal, but are a better option than current options used by many homeless residents (i.e. sleeping under freeways).

HRC 50th Anniversary

The commission discussed this event. Some thought this is a good opportunity to commemorate an important milestone for the commission. This may enable the commission to be seen on a broader scale, and foster new partnerships. Nika advised of possible sponsorship through IBM in the amounts of \$3000 or \$10,000. Venue was discussed, and Town Hall was put forward. Town Hall does this type of event well. Two possible dates for Town Hall are October 28th, or December 10th. Town Hall collects \$5.00 at the door. Some felt this could be prohibitive for some. It was suggested the fee could be covered through sponsorship. Town Hall holds 200, it would cost \$1,000 to comp the tickets. Speakers, entertainment, awards were discussed. Therese Caouette is a keynote speaker under consideration. The commission is considering merging the 50th anniversary with Human Rights Day. The commission felt this was a good idea. Felecia at SOCR felt this was a good idea as well. Julie Nelson SOCR Director supports combining the events. A video montage of the commission history was suggested. Next steps ask about Julie's interest in the combining events idea, and bring this back to the committee.

Trayvon Martin Statement.

Marty Penner wrote and distributed a press release on the Trayvon Martin verdict. The commission felt it was important to respond, and it was very well done.

ICE Detainer Hearing

About 16 people spoke at the hearing, including one person with ICE. The Majority of council is in favor 6/3. The next hearing is September 10th. Next steps are to follow up with council. Showing appreciation for those in favor; and a response targeted to those that have opposed.

Adjourned 7:45